

ABSOLUTE

BATMAN



ALL IN

13+ TEEN

2

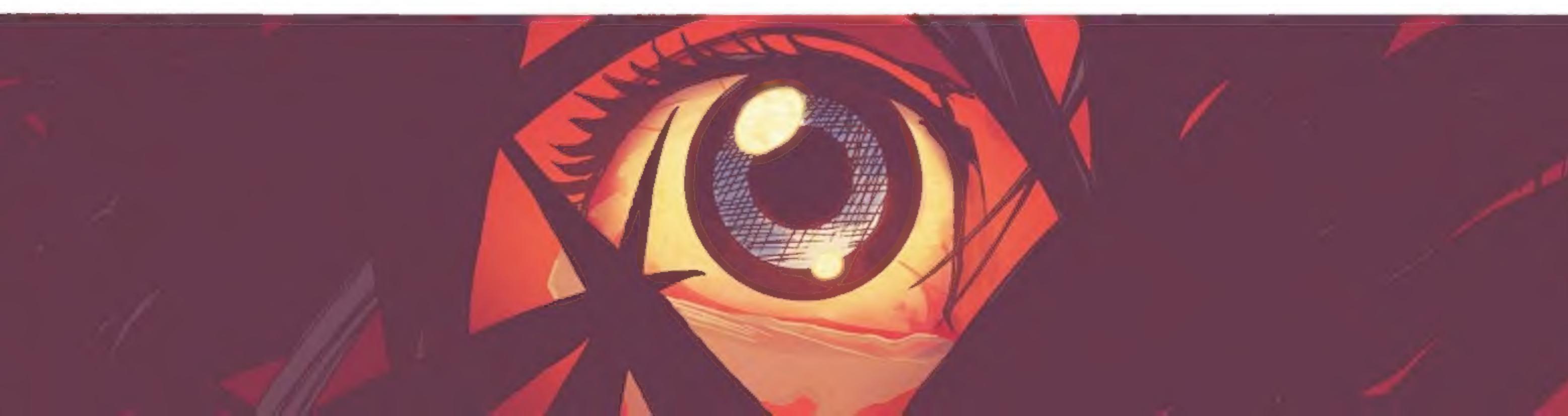
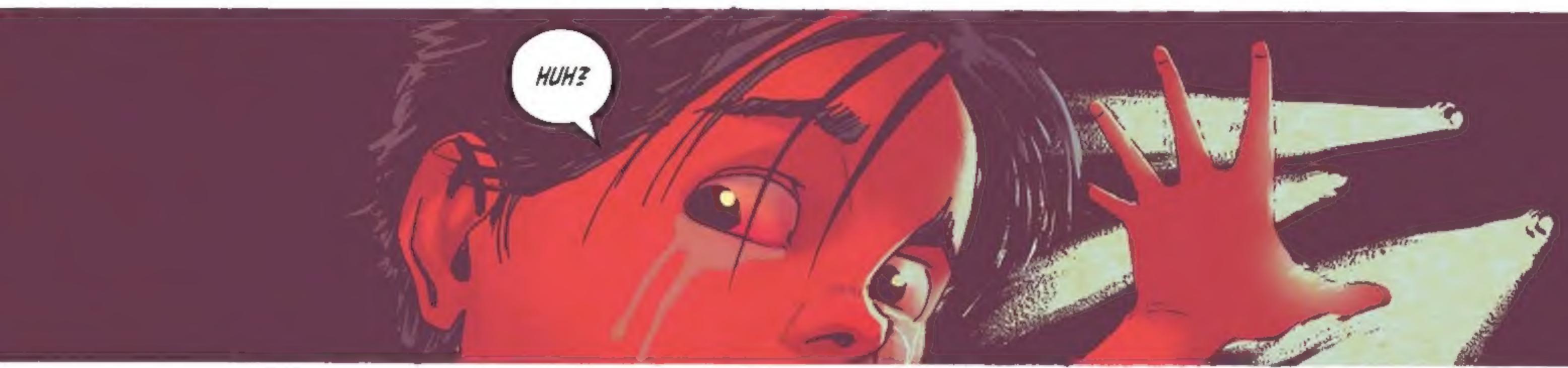


SNYDER

DRAGOTTA

MARTIN

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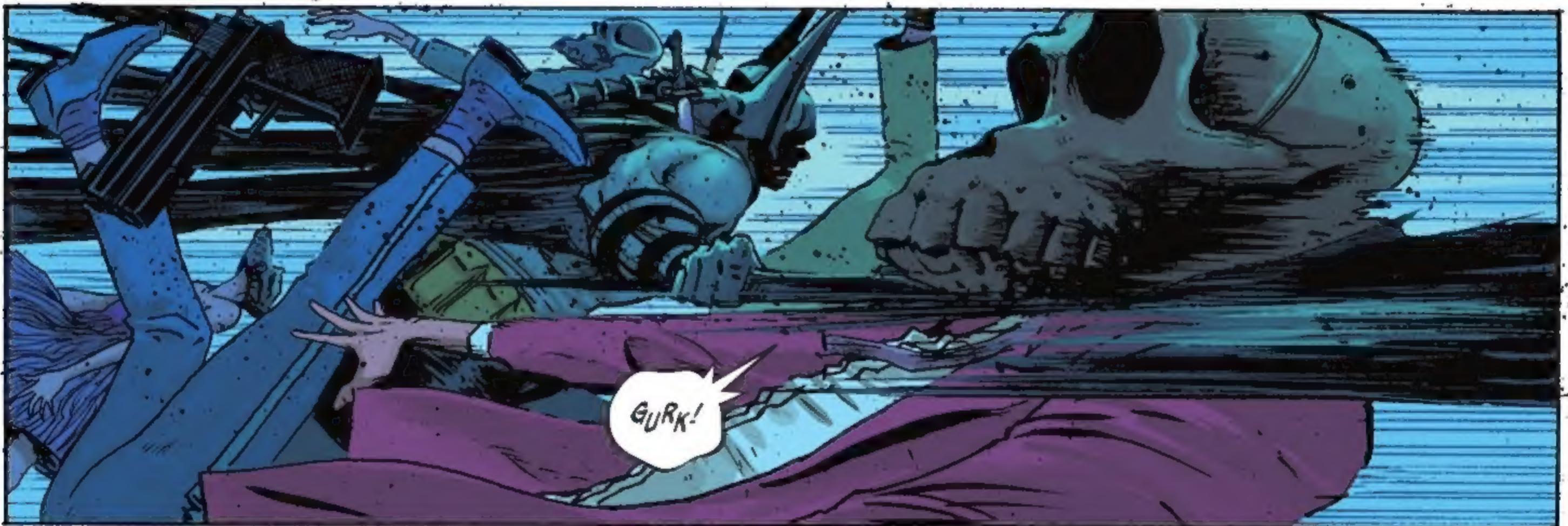
The background of the entire image is a vibrant red color. Overlaid on this are numerous bat silhouettes, rendered in black with yellow outlines. The bats are of various sizes and are clustered together, creating a sense of a large colony. Some bats are in sharp focus in the foreground, while others are more blurred in the background.

**ABSOLUTE
BATMAN**

"THE ZOO"

**PART TWO
OF FIVE**

Over the next two weeks, the Party Animals escalate their offensive on Gotham.



Lately, Sionis has brought in more of them--his Party Animals.

Enough to take on a small militia.

--DEAD NOW, @#\$%--

--CARVE YOU--

When I was in Special Forces, my commanders always said what makes a great leader is knowing when to advance forward and when to retreat and regroup.

Campaigns are long. One AF, one RR.

Every battle, I think this one, this is where he'll realize it's time to retreat and regroup.

And yet...

RAHHH!

...he plans everything.

USES everything.



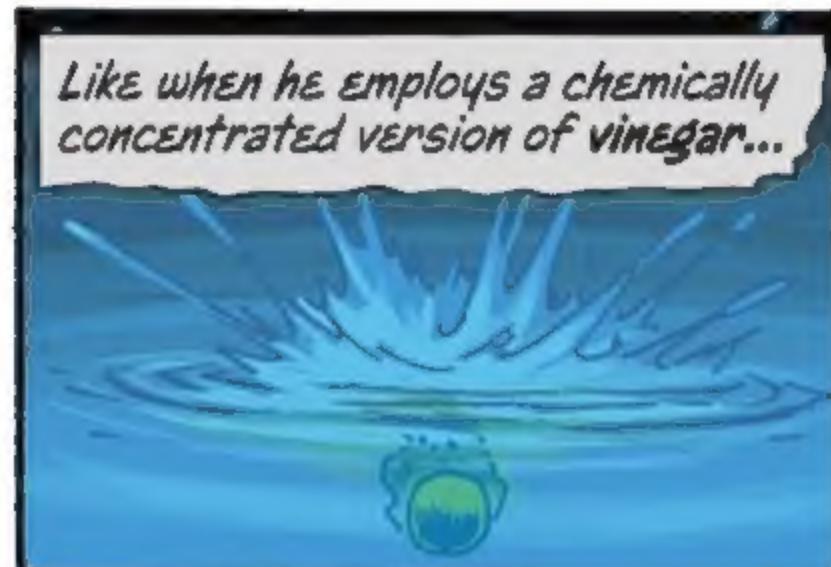
A fighter who knows the terrain takes advantage.

HA! WOW.
YOU GOT US
WET--

CAN'T
STAY UP THERE
FOREVER--

Like when he employs a chemically concentrated version of vinegar...

...to turn the salt water into hydrochloric acid.



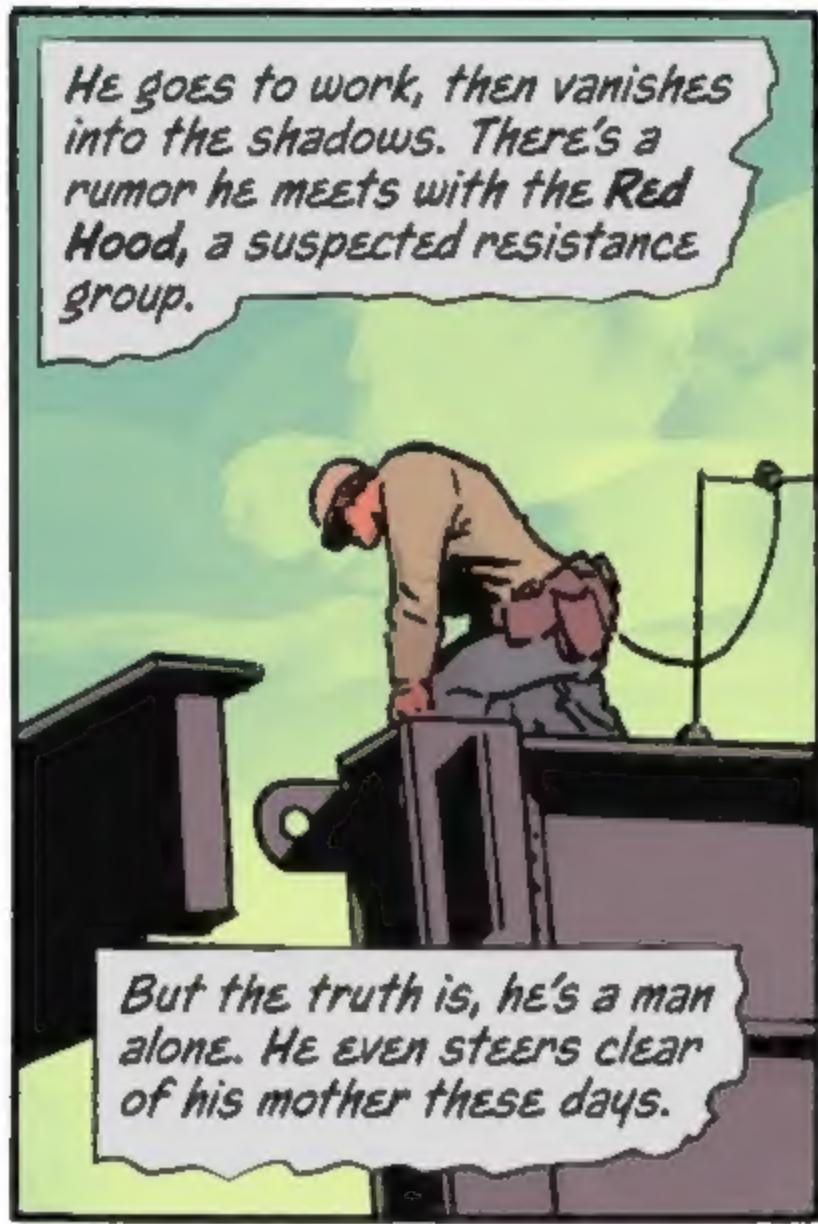
...he's certainly committed to the bit.



When he's not the Bat, his routine is monastically tight.



He goes to work, then vanishes into the shadows. There's a rumor he meets with the Red Hood, a suspected resistance group.



But the truth is, he's a man alone. He even steers clear of his mother these days.

He breaks from routine only once during these weeks.

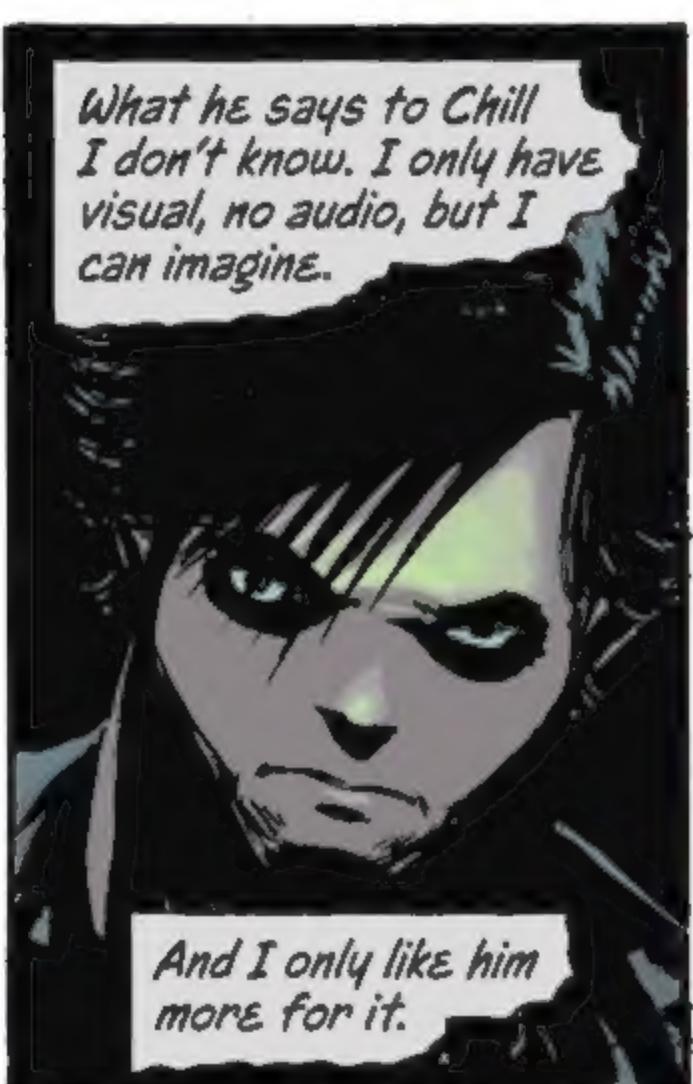
To make a stop that catches me off guard.



To visit Joseph Chill. His father's killer.

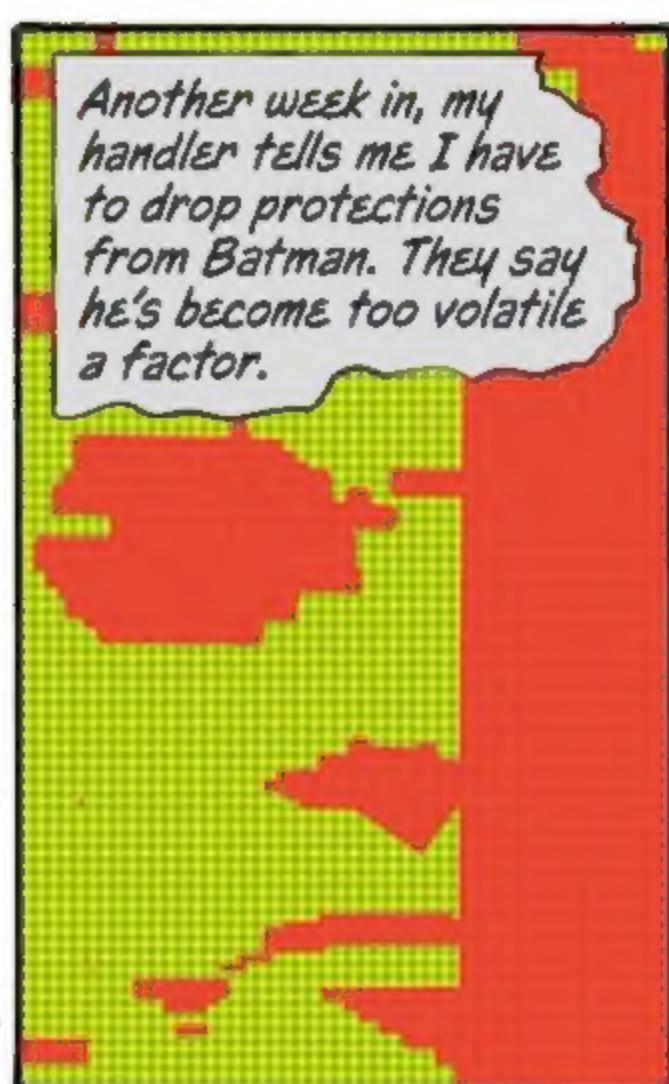


What he says to Chill I don't know. I only have visual, no audio, but I can imagine.



And I only like him more for it.

Another week in, my handler tells me I have to drop protections from Batman. They say he's become too volatile a factor.



I consider pushing back, telling him that Batman has helped my mission.



That in fact, his provocations have helped me form a new theory on who Sionis is, what he's a part of...I think about making my case.



Instead, I remove the protections.

Soon after, the Party Animals find his caves in the empty high-rises, as I did.

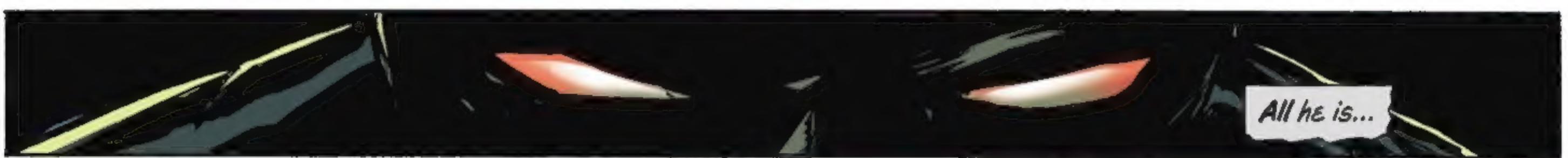


I try to picture Bruce up there. At the moment he finally understands.



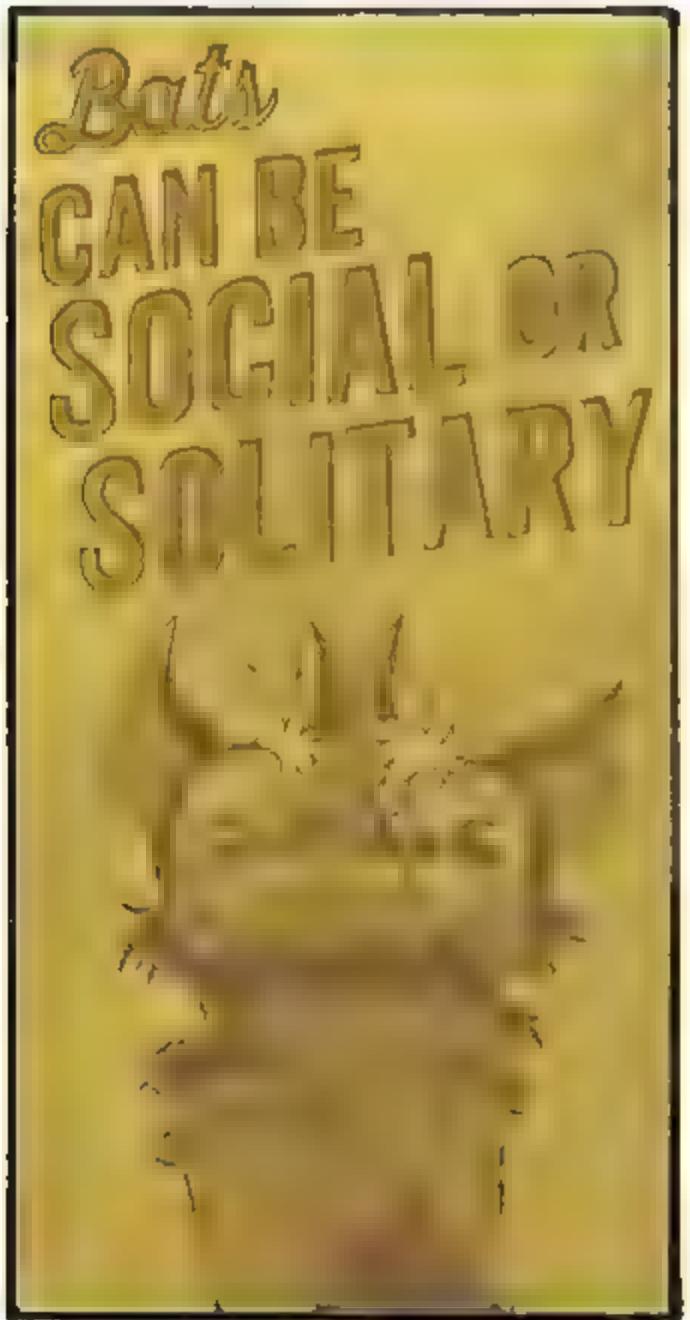
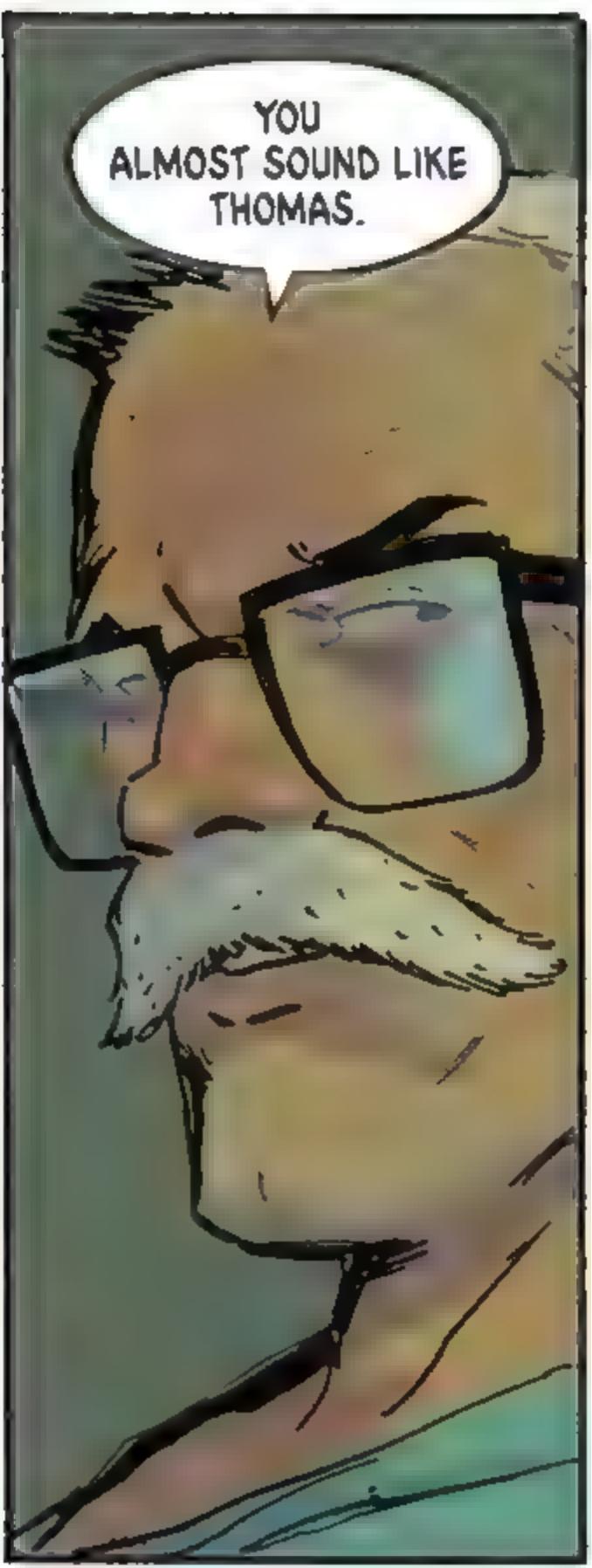
...and gets the message. "Retreat and Regroup, Batman. R #\$_@# R."

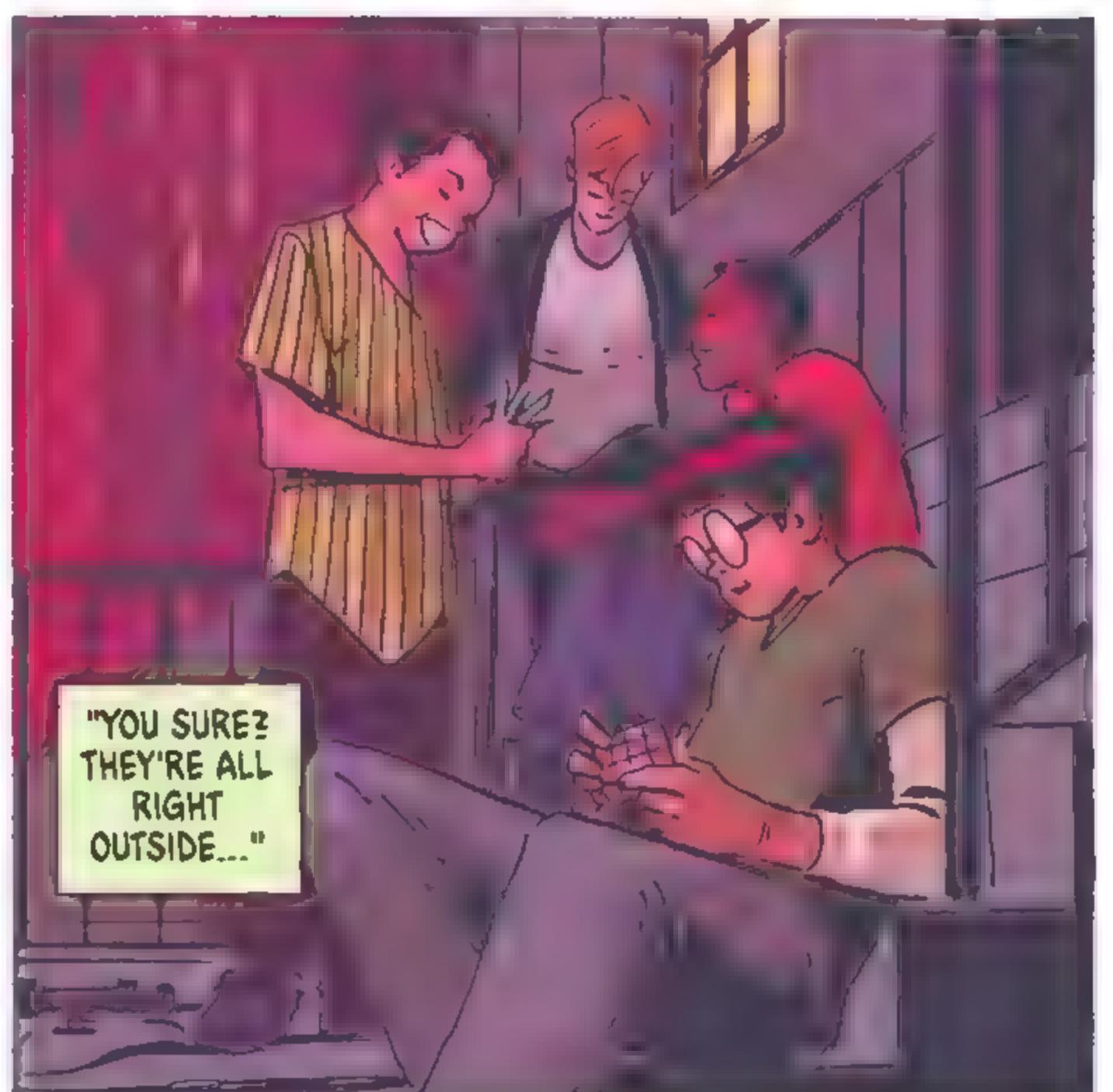
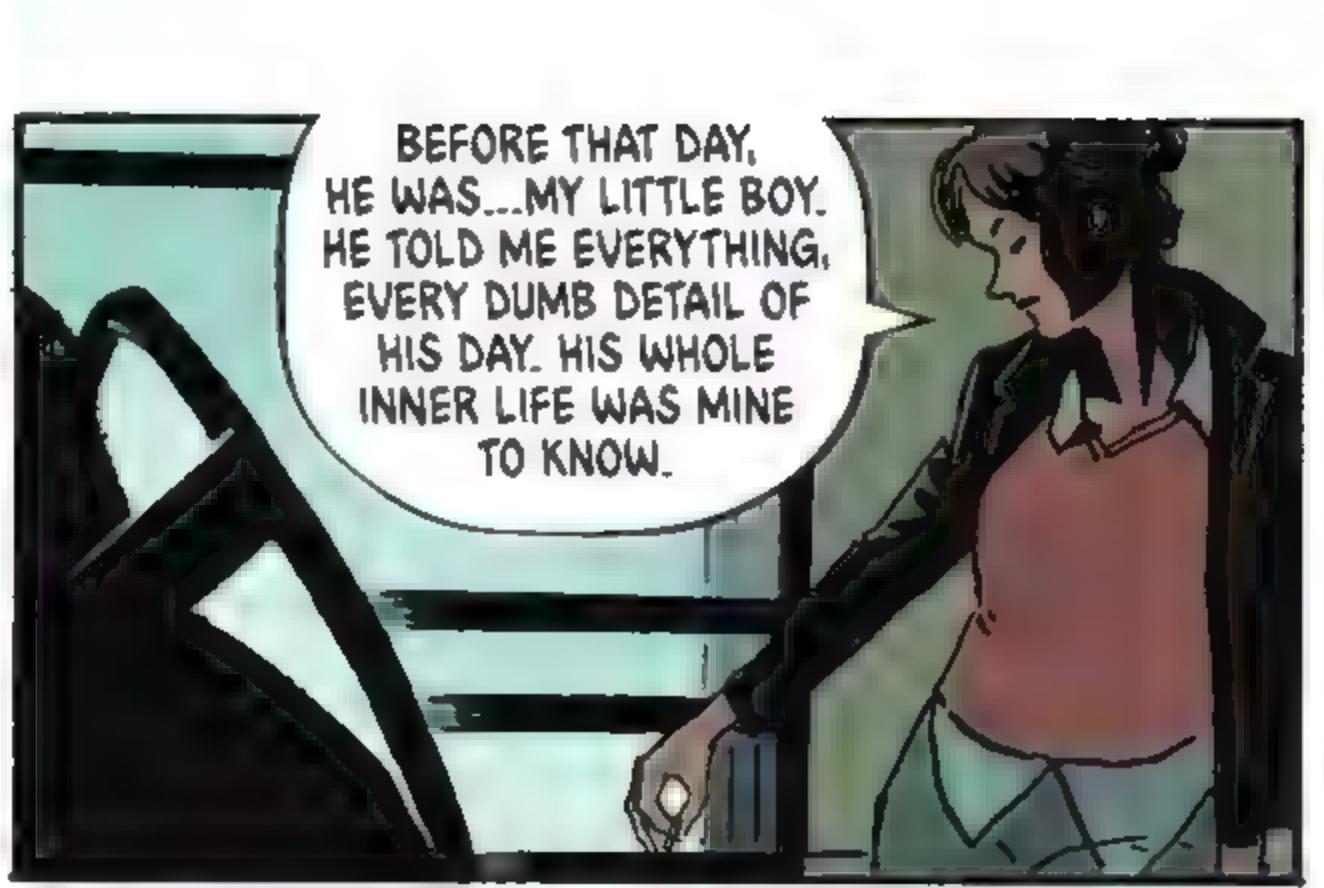


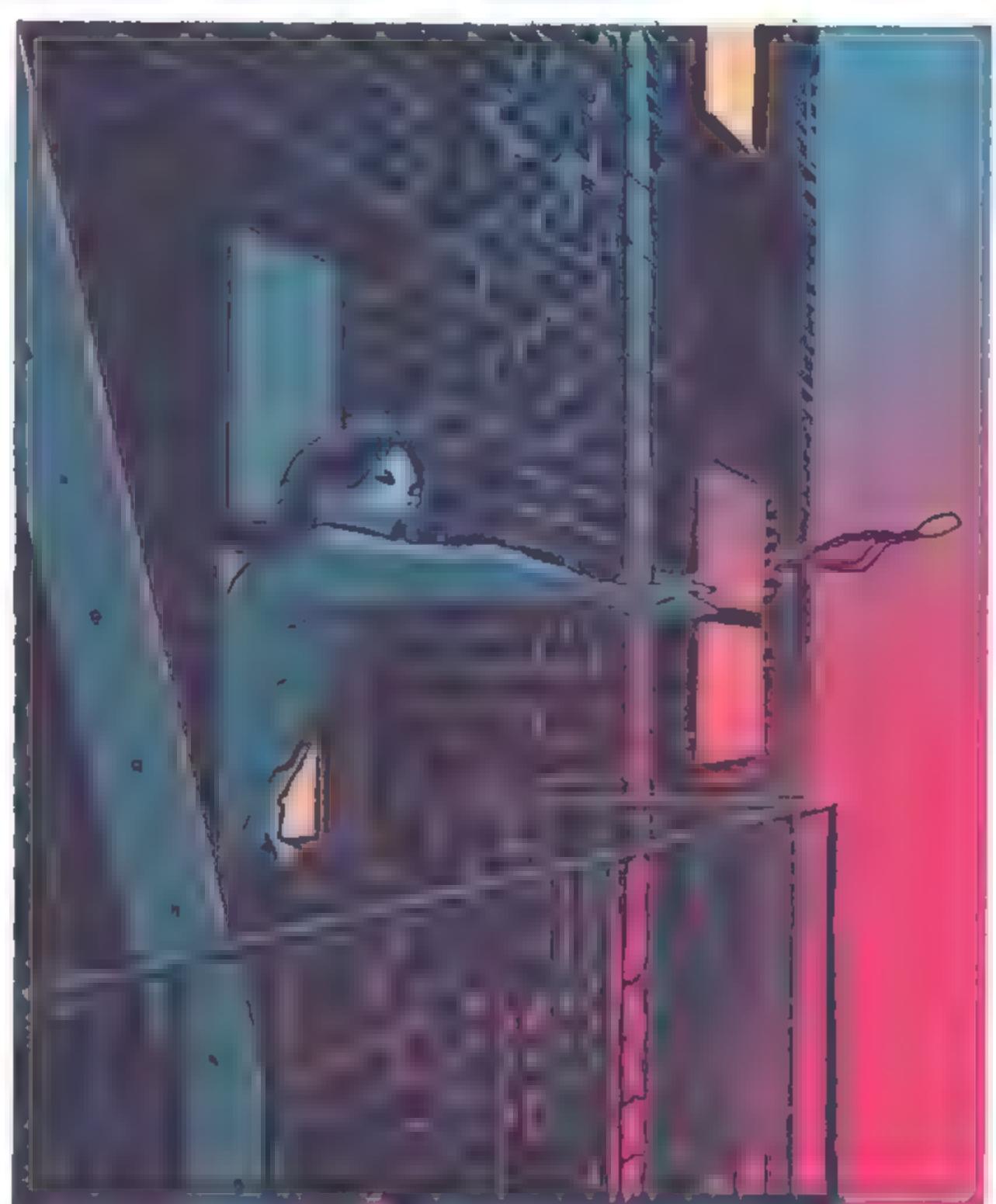
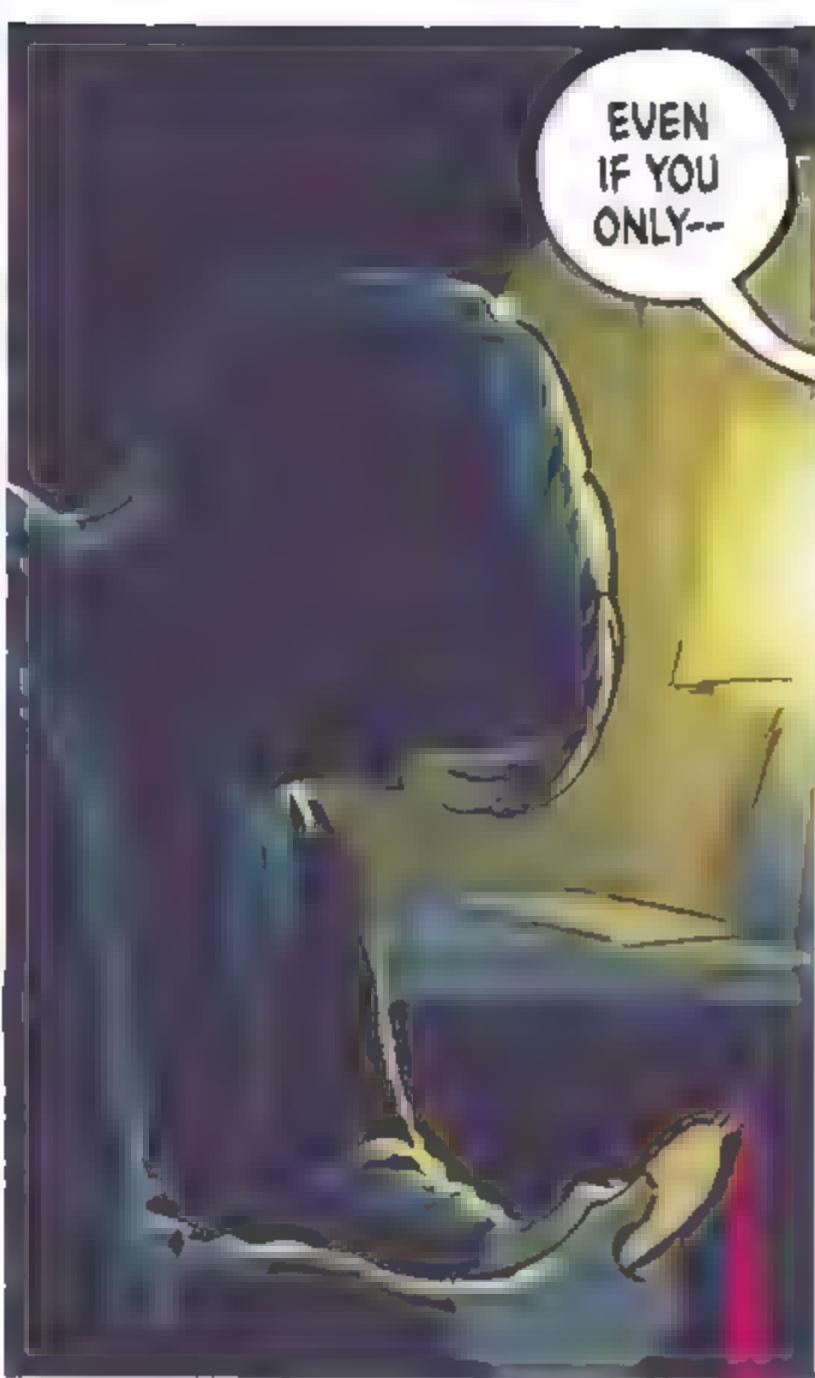
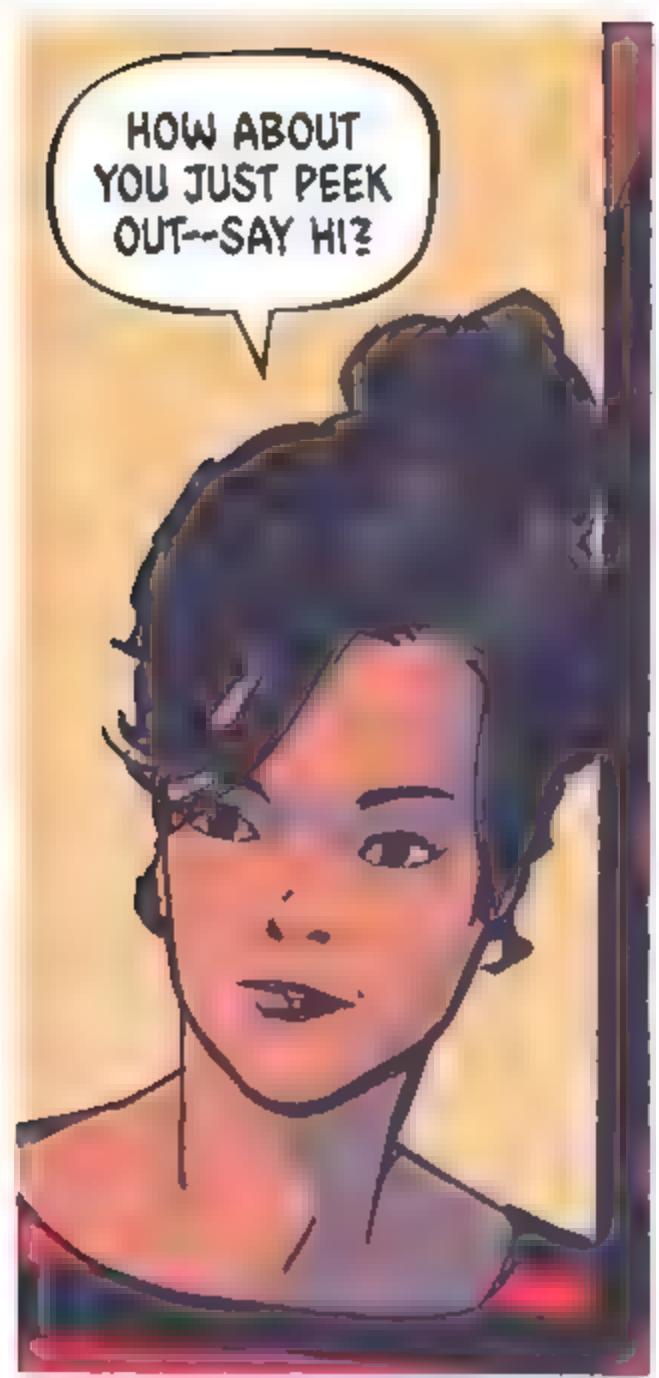












--LOOK
WHAT THE
CAT DRAGGED
IN--

--COULD
IT ACTUALLY
BE--?!

--NO
WAY--

LAY
OFF. I'VE BEEN
BUSY.

GRACING US
WITH YOUR #\\$%&
PRESENCE?

HANG ON.
I'M MEMORIALIZING
THIS.

WHOA.
NO PICS.

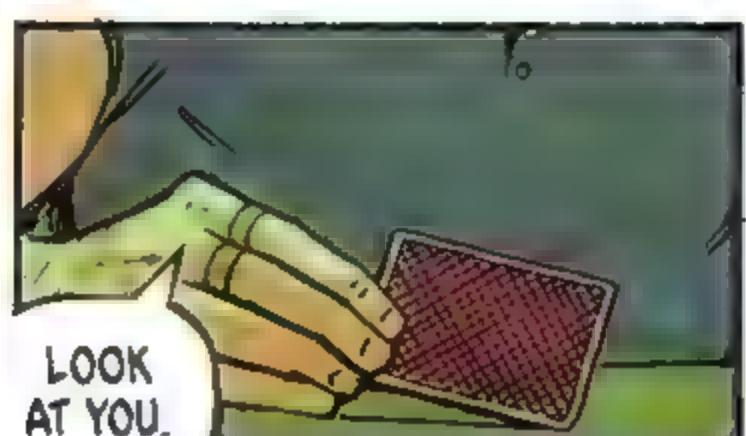
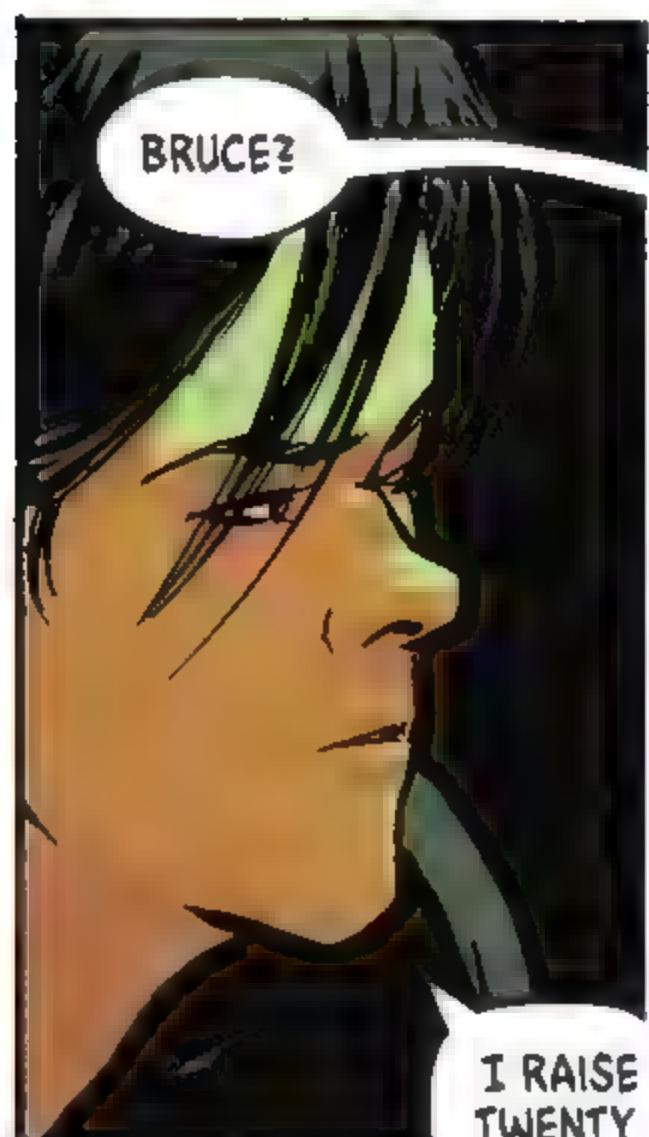
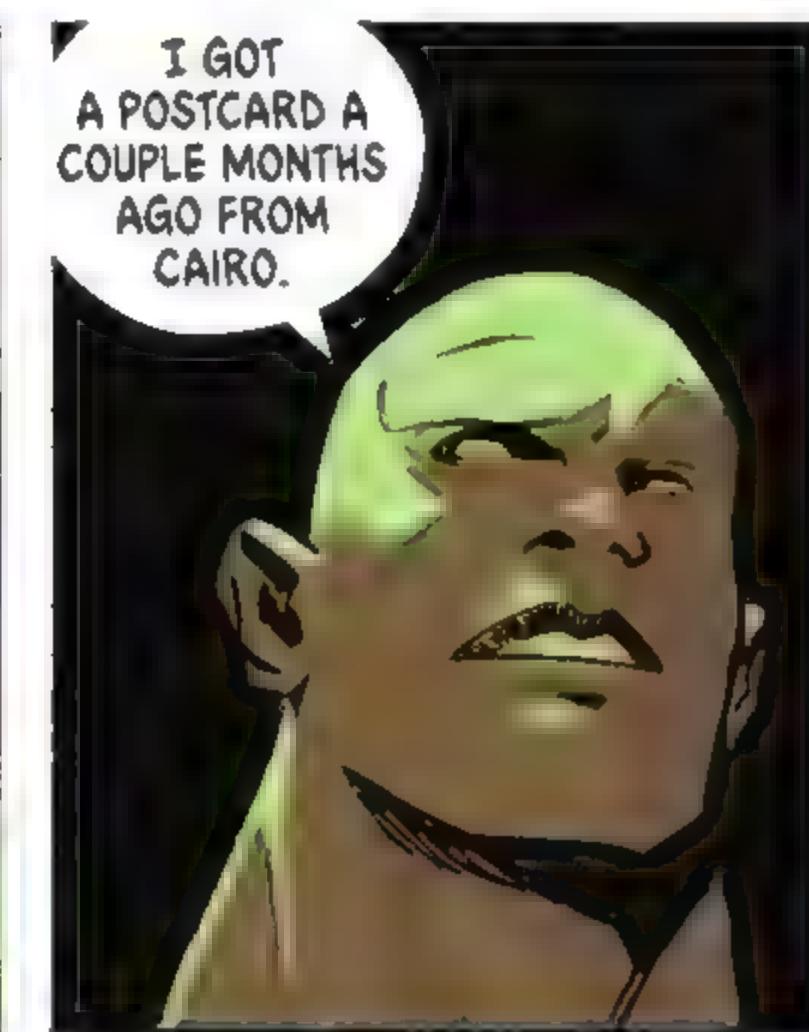
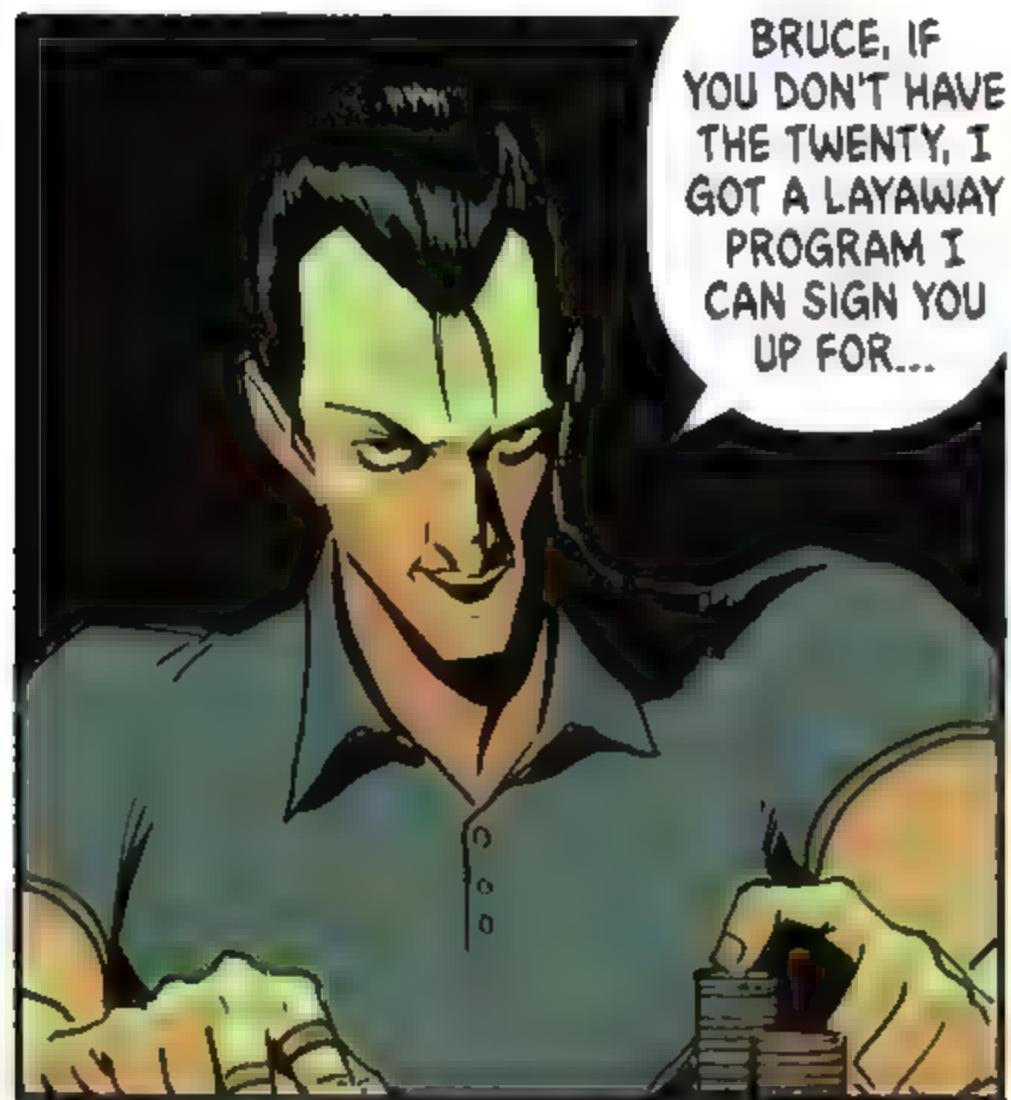
NOT TOO
GOOD FOR
THEM, OZZIE.
JUST YOU.

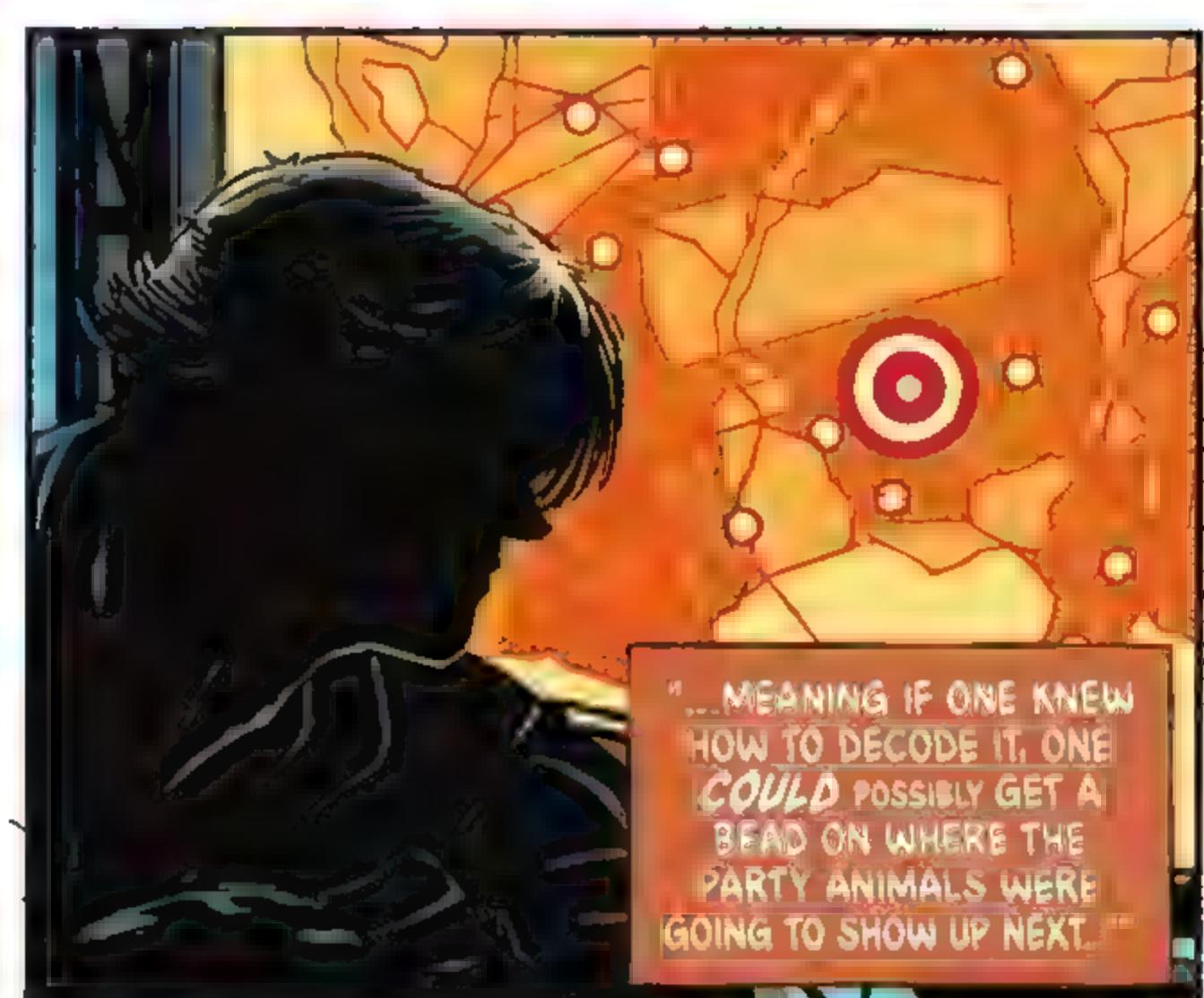
WHAT, YOU'RE
TOO GOOD FOR
US NOW THAT YOU
PUSH PAPERS FOR
THE D.A.?

HAR HAR,
YOU @#\\$
TWO-FACE.

BRUCE, WILL
YOU PLEASE SHUT
THESE TWO UP SO
I CAN GO BACK
TO COUNTING
CARDS?







HIGH-TECH, HEAVILY ARMED.
THE PARTY ANIMALS MUST BE
MOVING IN ON EVERYONE'S
TERRITORY...

OZZIE?

WHY THE
@#*\$% WOULD I
KNOW, BRUCE? JUST
BECAUSE MY BUSINESS
IS ATYPICAL, YOU
THINK--

RELAX. I
WAS JUST
ASKING IF YOU'RE
STILL IN.

...OH.

"ATYPICAL."
THAT'S GOOD.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, THE PARTY ANIMALS
AREN'T MOVING IN ON ANYTHING. FAR AS
I CAN TELL, THESE GUYS ARE JUST OUT
TO WRECK THE CITY.

WORD IS,
THEIR MAN?
"ROMAN"? HE
KILLS EVERYONE
WHO MEETS AND
TRIES TO MAKE
A DEAL.

AND
YEAH, I'M
OUT.

EDDIE?

NAH, I
GOT KINGS
COMING MY
WAY NEXT
HAND.

PFFT.

I'M
OUT,
TOO

WAYLON?

I WILL
SAY, IT'S NICE
TO SEE YOU
SO FIRED UP,
BRUCE.

ALL RIGHT,
HARV. YOU
AND ME.

I GOT
TO ASK,
THOUGH.

YOU'RE DEEP
IN. YOU THINK IT'S
POLITICAL? THE PARTY
ANIMALS CAUSING
HAVOC THIS CLOSE TO
AN ELECTION? YOU
THINK IT'S TO SINK
GORDON?

NAH, WE ALL LOVE JIM,
BUT HE WAS HURTING
BEFORE ALL THE CHAOS.
IT'D BE OVERKILL,
LITERALLY AND
FIGURATIVELY.

MY TWO
CENTS? IF THIS
IS POLITICAL, IT'S
ABOUT MORE
THAN JUST
POWER.

WHAT'S
A BIGGER
MOTIVATOR
THAN
POWER?

HA.
SPOKEN
LIKE A TRUE
CRIME ALLEY
BOY...

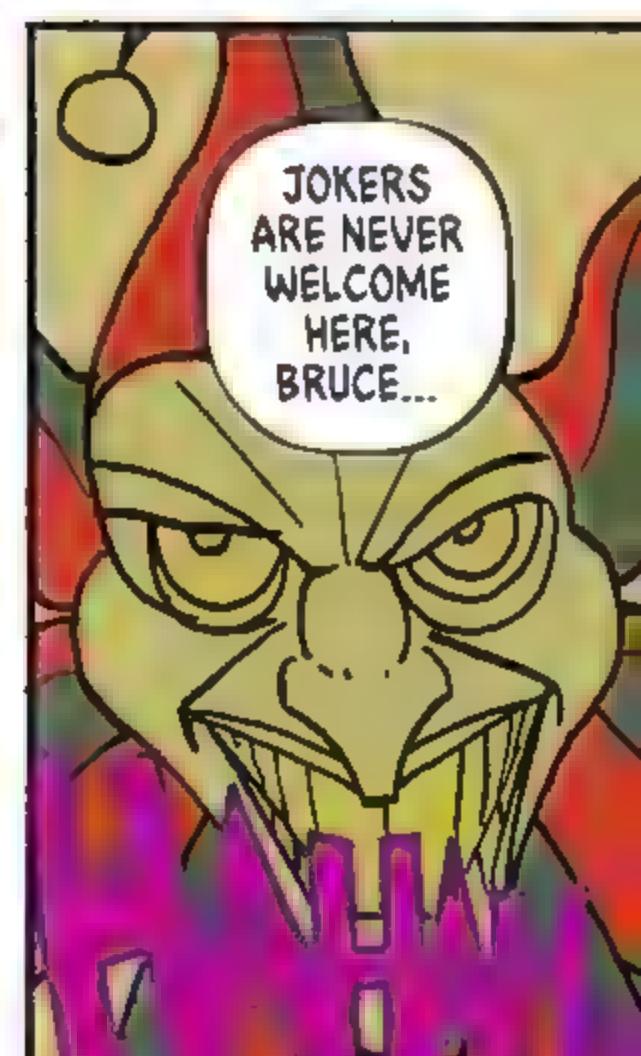
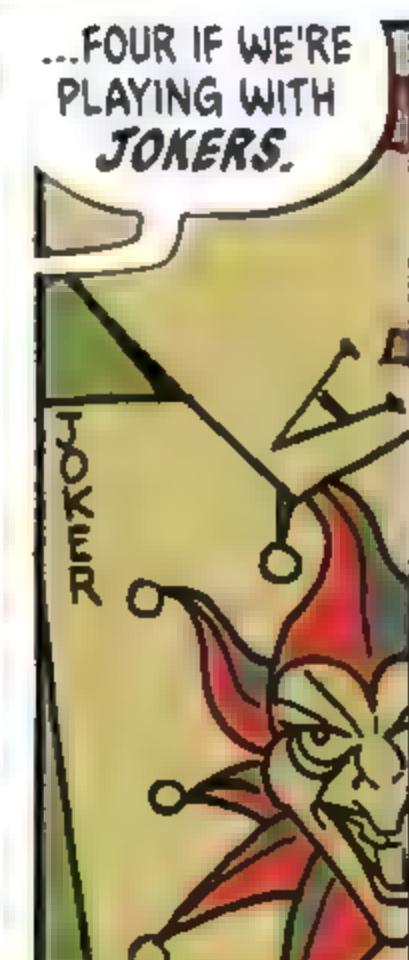
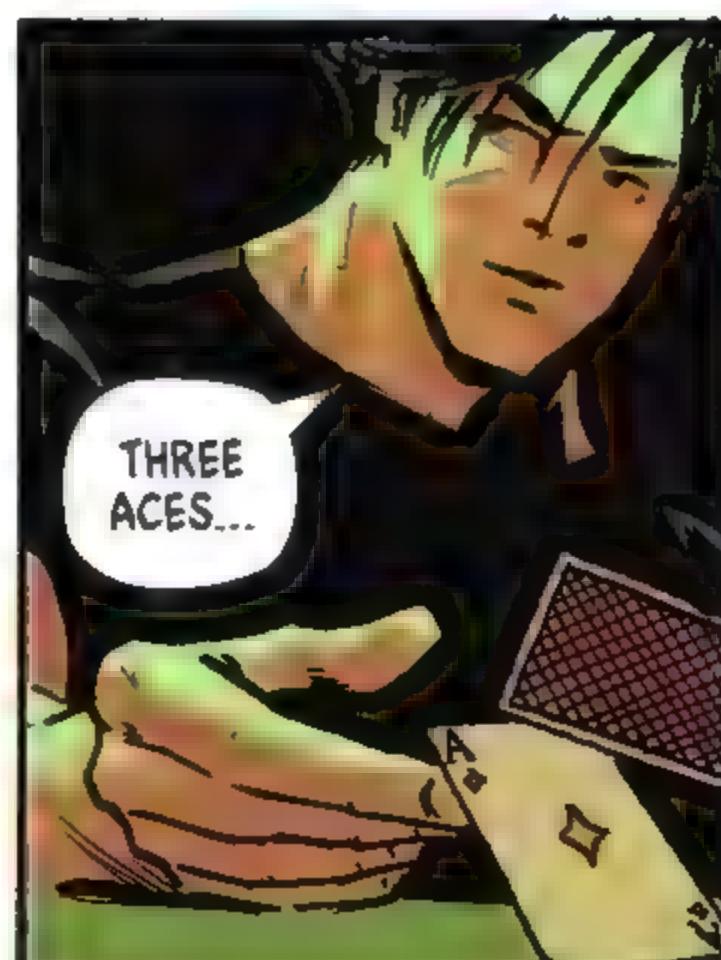
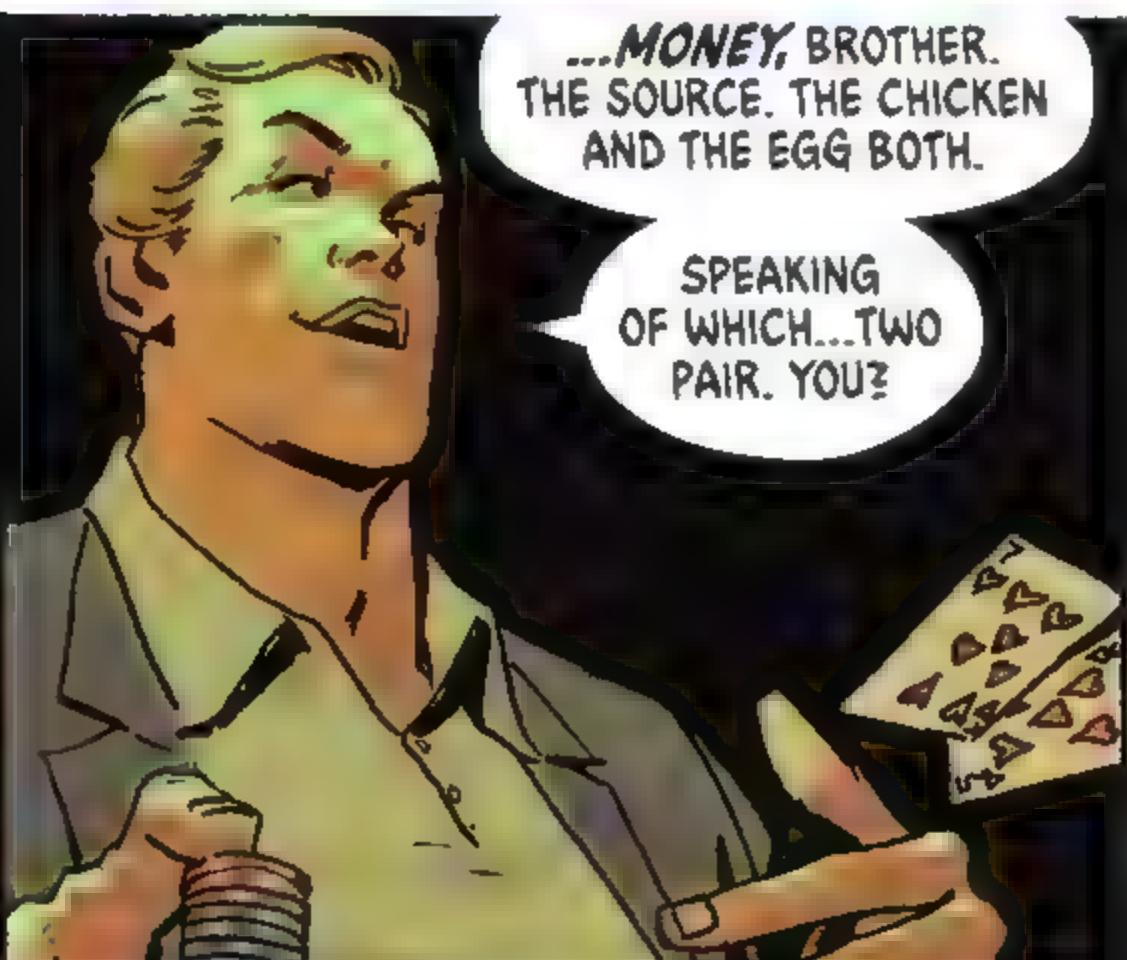
...MONEY, BROTHER.
THE SOURCE. THE CHICKEN
AND THE EGG BOTH.

SPEAKING
OF WHICH...TWO PAIR. YOU?

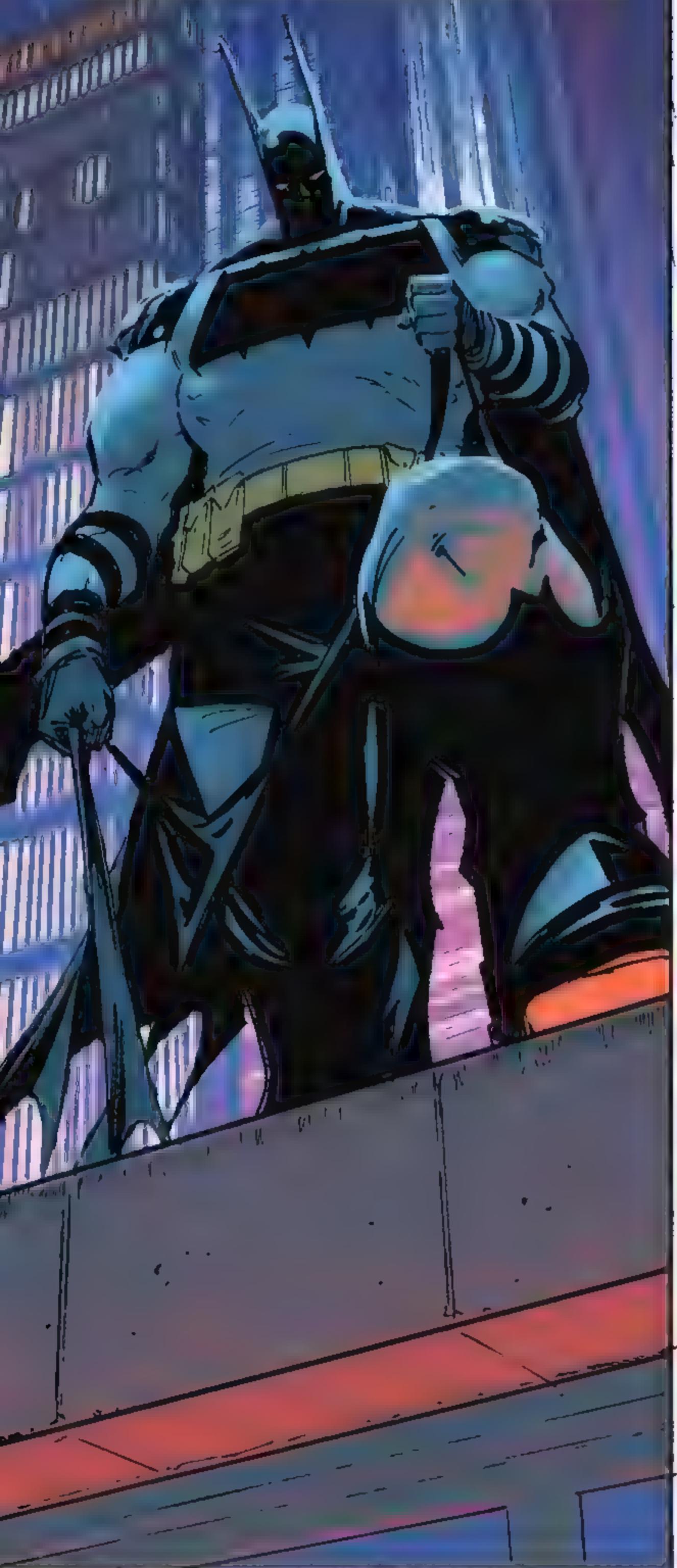
THREE
ACES...

...FOUR IF WE'RE
PLAYING WITH
JOKERS.

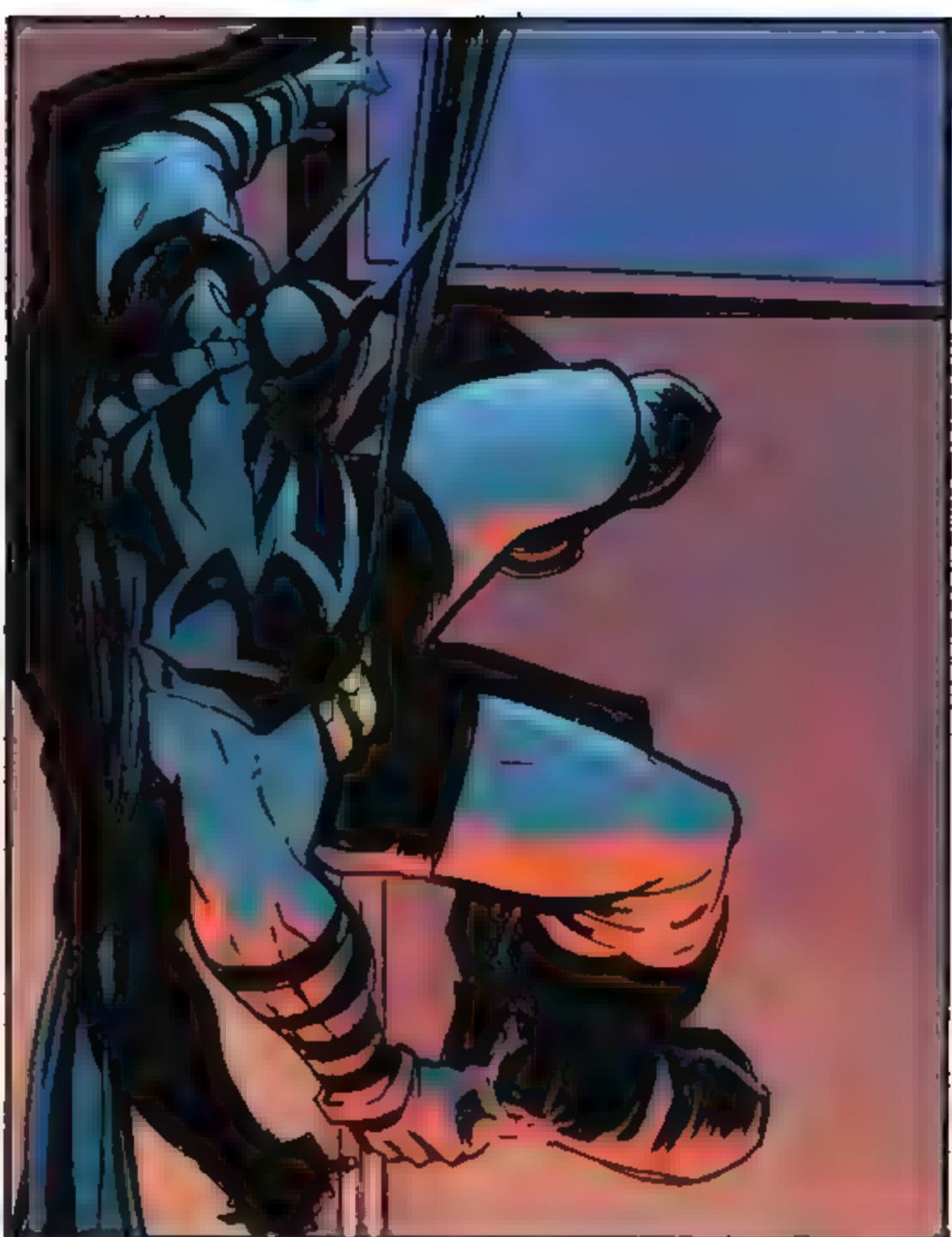
JOKERS
ARE NEVER
WELCOME
HERE,
BRUCE...



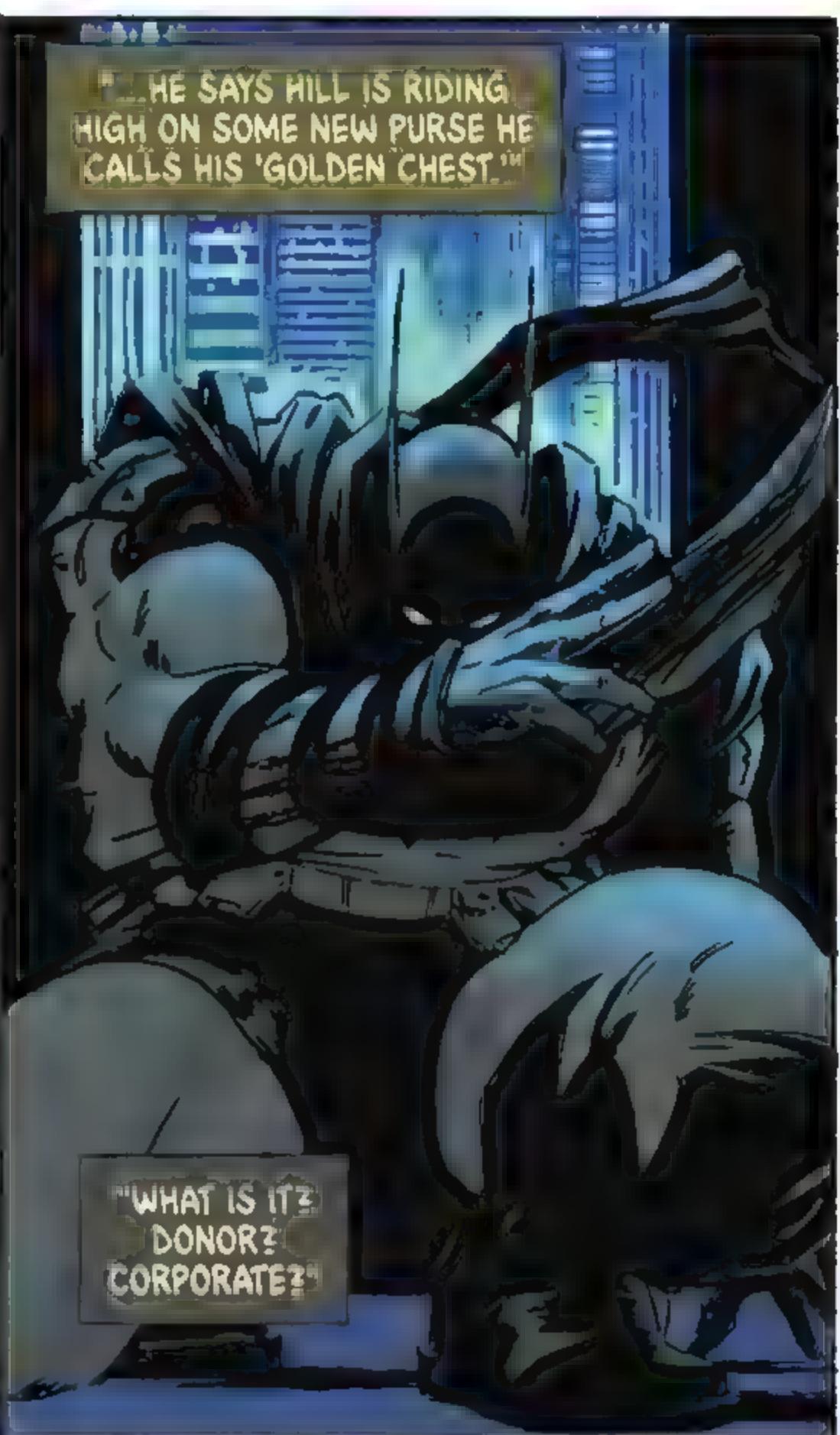
"...SHOULDA NEVER LET YOU IN ON THE POT. AND LOOK, I DON'T KNOW IF IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE PARTY ANIMALS, BUT FROM WHAT I HEAR IN THE HALLS, HILL HAS BEEN TAKING IN A LOT OF CAPITAL."



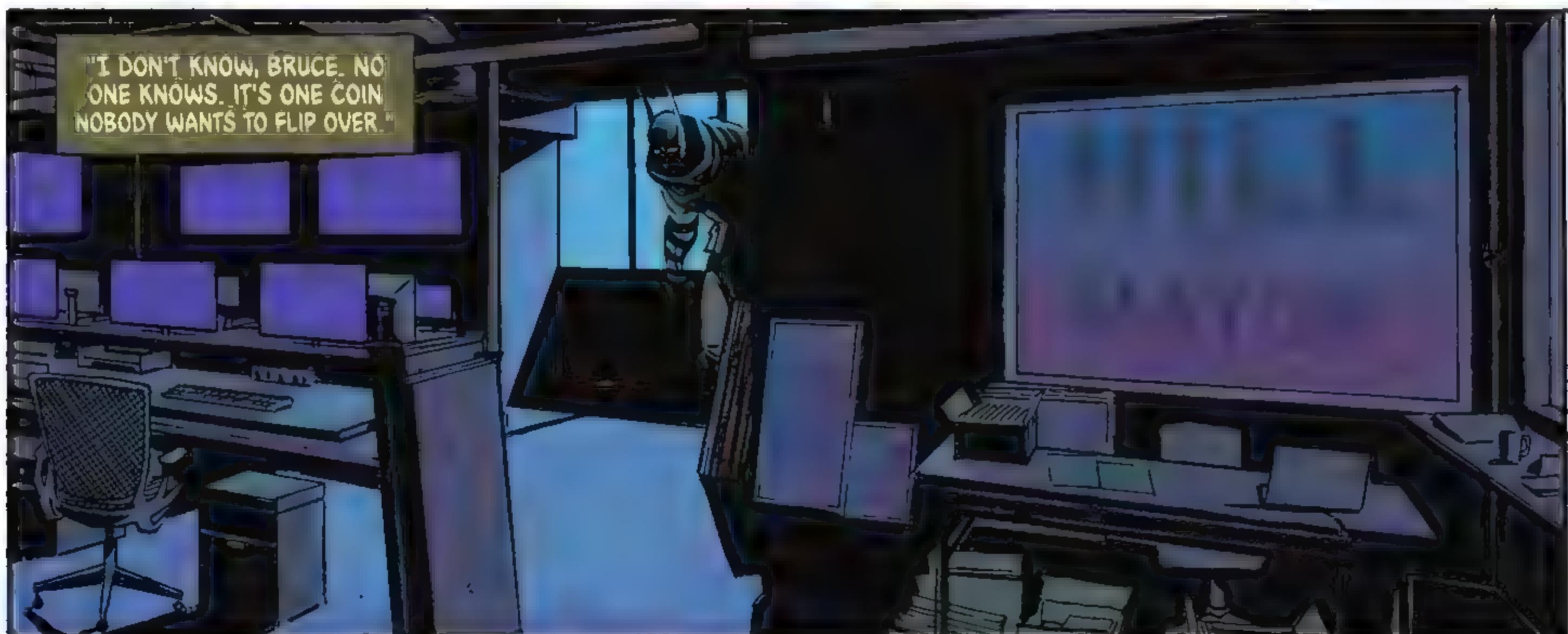
"LIKE, A LOT. THIS GUY I KNOW WHO WORKS IN HIS OFFICE. YOUNG GUY NAMED HADY- SCUMBAG, BUT STILL..."



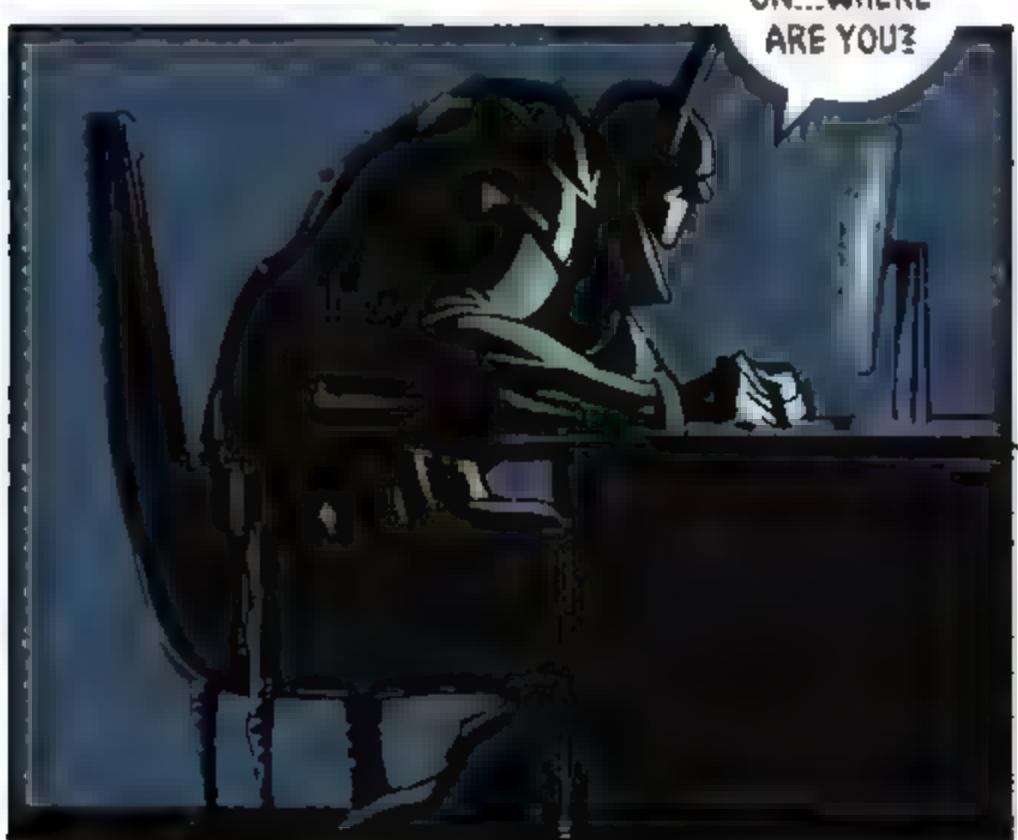
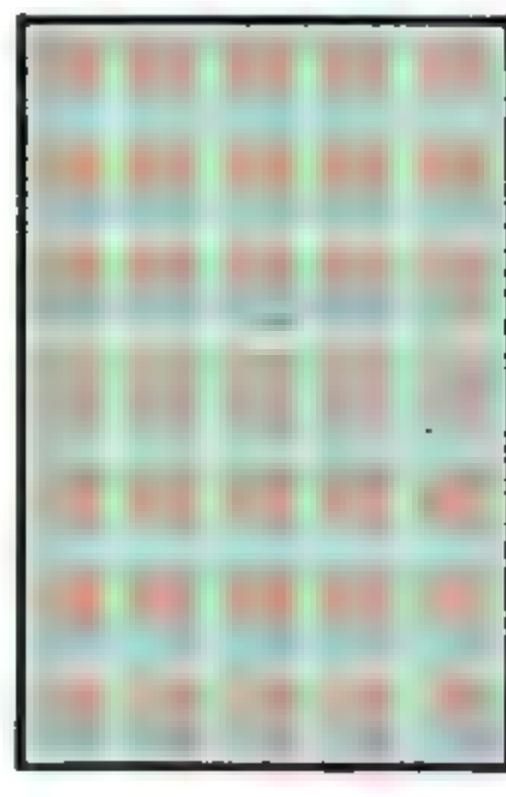
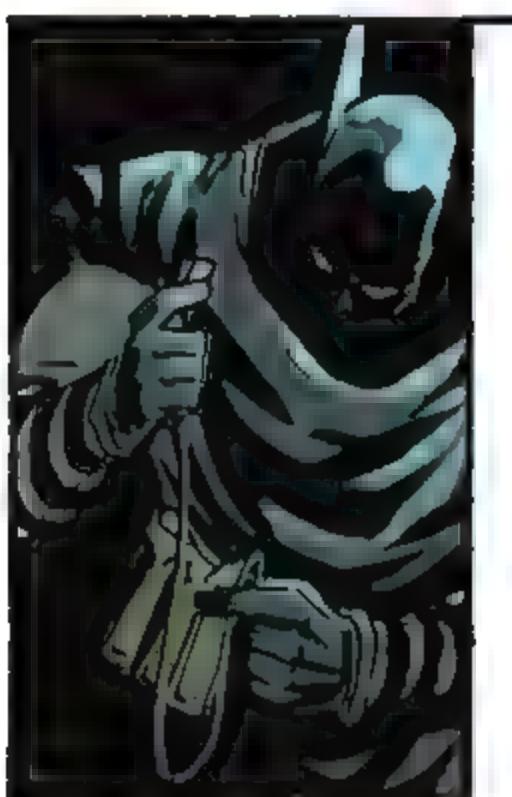
"HE SAYS HILL IS RIDING HIGH ON SOME NEW PURSE HE CALLS HIS 'GOLDEN CHEST.'"



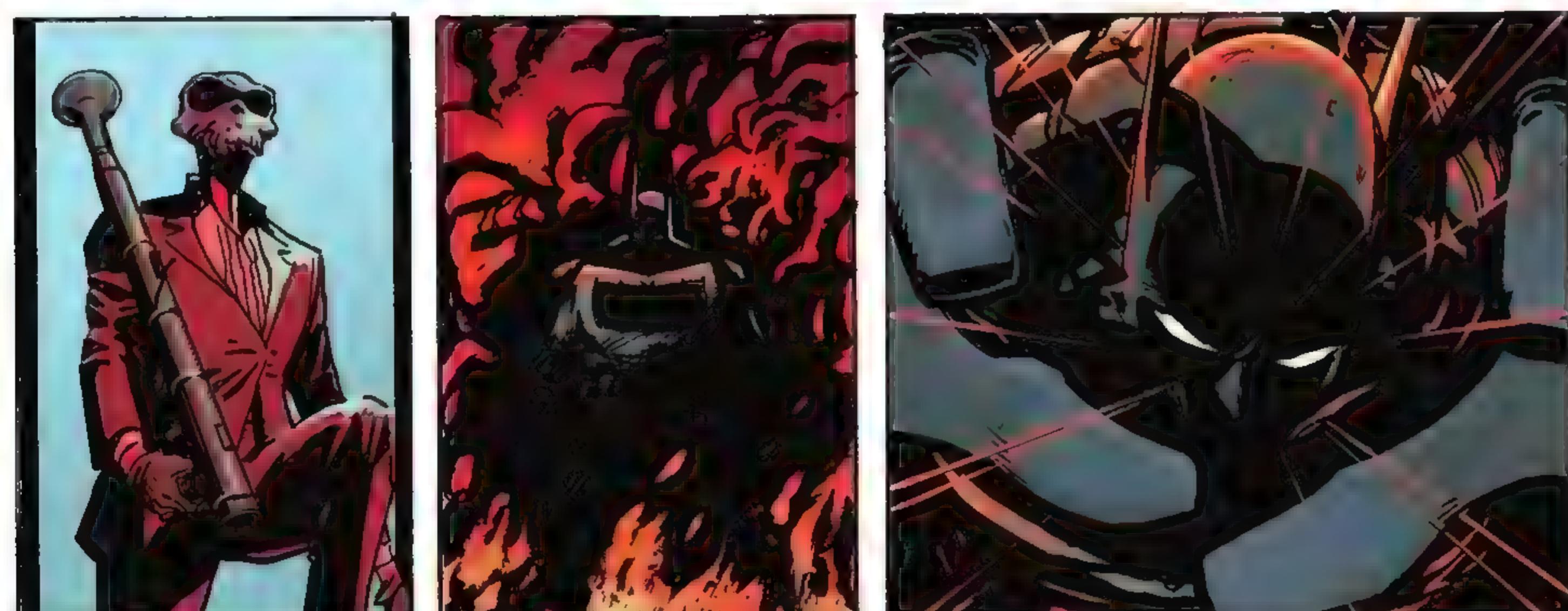
"WHAT IS IT? DONOR? CORPORATE?"



"I DON'T KNOW, BRUCE. NO ONE KNOWS. IT'S ONE COIN NOBODY WANTS TO FLIP OVER."



ArkM







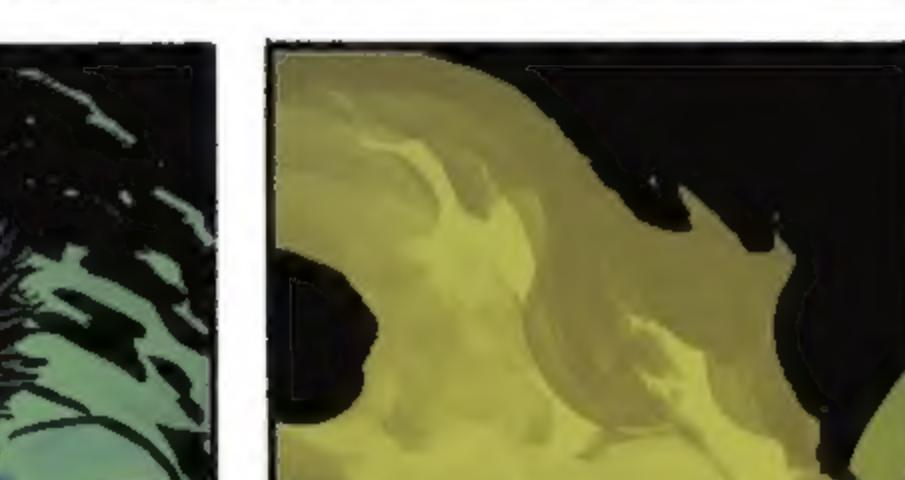
I'VE COME
TO BELIEVE THAT
WE CAN HELP EACH
OTHER HERE. JUST
GIVE ME A CHANCE
TO EXPLAIN.
PLEASE.



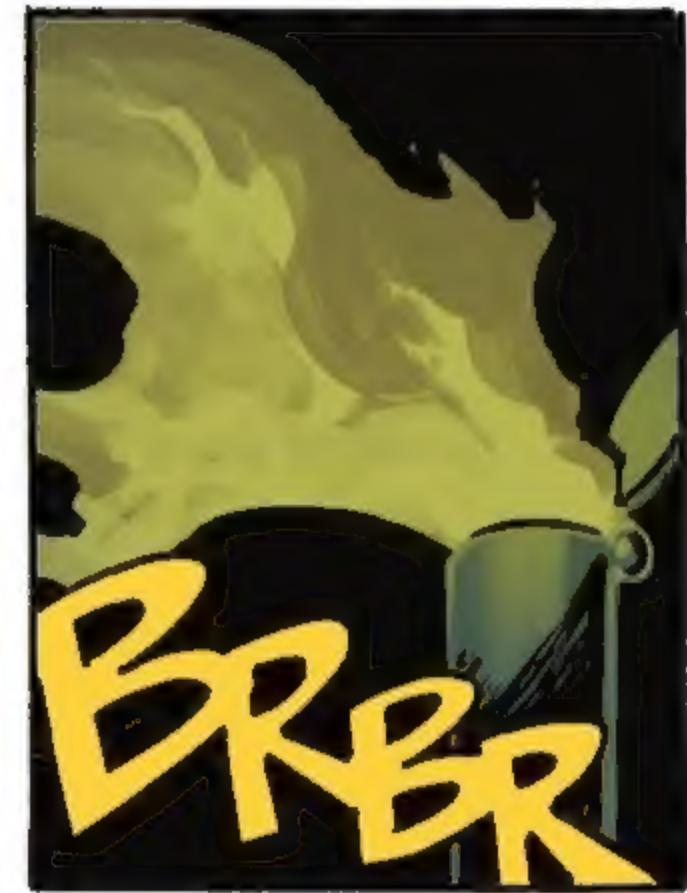
THIRTY
SECONDS.



ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU.
BUT WE NEED TO GET OUT
OF HERE. THEY'RE ALL OVER
THE PLACE. WE HAVE
TO GET SOMEWHERE
SAFE.



I HAVE
A CAR HIDDEN
OUT BACK. UNLESS
YOU HAVE
ONE?



BOOM!





YOU LOSE
SOMETHING?



SELINA?

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BATMAN CREATED BY
BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER



GET UP.
YOU'RE COMING
WITH ME.